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Strigea raabei sp. n., a new trematode from wild
ducks of Poland

Strigea raabei sp. n., nowy gatunek przywry z dzikich kaczek Polski

In the course of my studies conducted over the period of several years (1948—1955) on the helminthofauna of water-birds (1) and particularly on the internal parasites of wild ducks of the subfamily *Anatinae* (2) I had a possibility to look over a helminthological material collected from 472 birds. In my paper „Helminthofauna of wild ducks (subfamily *Anatinae*)” I presented among others a brief description of the trematode of the family *Strigeidae*, found in the cloaca of one *Querquedula querquedula* L. and one *Nyroca nyroca* G ü l d., which, as I supposed, was a new species hitherto not described in the literature. Because to my disposal were only 14, in the majority badly preserved specimens of this trematode, I described it in the above mentioned paper as *Strigea* sp. Examining in the meantime other ducks I found in 1956 in the cloaca of one *Nyroca nyroca* G ü l d. 28 specimens of this trematode, which, on the basis of an accurate analysis of the large material I classify as a new species and confer the name *Strigea raabei* sp. n.

It should be stressed that all hitherto known representatives of the genus *Strigea*, numbering about 30 species, live exclusively in the small or large intestine and that the new species described by me has for the first time been found in the cloaca.

As is well known, the representatives of the genus *Strigea* are in the first line parasites of *Falconiformes* and *Strigiformes*, less frequently of *Caprimulgiformes*, *Rheiformes*, *Passeriformes* and *Charadriiformes*. In *Anseriformes* trematodes of this genus have hitherto not been found. Among water-birds and swampy-birds only in the *Larus atricilla* L. the species *Strigea infundibuliformis* Dubois,

1934 was found. My present report is therefore on the first case of finding the species of the genus *Strigea* in ducks.

The problem of the fauna of trematodes of birds has not interested many investigators in Poland (Kowalewski, 1895—1907; Ruszkowski, 1925; Ejsmont, 1931; Markowski, 1933; Bezubik, 1956 a, b; Furmaga, 1957, and Sulgostowska, 1958). Among the above investigators only Markowski and Furmaga found in their material trematodes of the genus *Strigea*, namely Markowski — *Strigea sphaerula* (Rudolphi, 1803) Szidat, 1928 and Furmaga — *Strigea falconis* Szidat, 1928, *Strigea elongata* Yamaguti, 1935 and *Strigea strigis* (Schränk, 1788) Abildgaard, 1790. All the species, however, were found in prey-birds: by Markowski in *Passeriformes* and by Furmaga the two first — in *Falconiformes*, the third — in *Strigiformes*.

Strigea raabei sp. n.

Syn.: *Strigea* sp. Bezubik, 1956.

Description of *Strigea raabei* sp. n.* is based on 14 entire specimens and microtomic sections, 20 microns in thickness, stained with alum-carmin.

The body clearly divided into two segments, the shorter anterior and somewhat longer posterior segment. The anterior part of the body is broader than the posterior one. This worm is, contrary to the majority of the described trematodes of the genus *Strigea* only slightly bent ventrally.

The total length of the trematode fluctuates within the limits of 2.8—5.0 mm. The anterior part of the body almost of a spherical form, the anterior end relatively broad attains the length of 1.1—1.8 mm and the width of 1.23—1.8 mm; the anterior part is therefore somewhat broader than its length. The thickness of the anterior part of the body measures about 1.2—1.5 mm, the thickness of the posterior part — about 0.8—1.0 mm. The posterior part of the body of an oval form, conspicuously separated from the anterior part, is 1.7—3.2 mm in length and (on level of the anterior testis) 1.0—1.5 mm in width. The proportion of the length of the posterior segment to the length of the anterior segment amounts to 1.46—1.85.

* The species name is given to honour my first Teacher, Professor Doctor Zdzisław Raabe, Director of the Zoological Institute of the Warsaw University

The oral sucker measures $0.22-0.27 \times 0.20-0.27$ mm, is situated subterminally (in the depression of lobes of the holdfast organ), nearer to the dorsal surface of the body. Dorsally to it lies closely the badly visible on total preparates pharynx poorly muscular; its size $0.13-0.2 \times 0.16-0.19$ mm. The ventral sucker situated on the level of $2/3$ of the anterior segment on the bottom of the holdfast organ measures $0.27-0.32 \times 0.21-0.37$ mm. On total preparates it is not well visible, because it is covered by densely arranged here vitelline follicles. There is an absence of the adhesive gland.

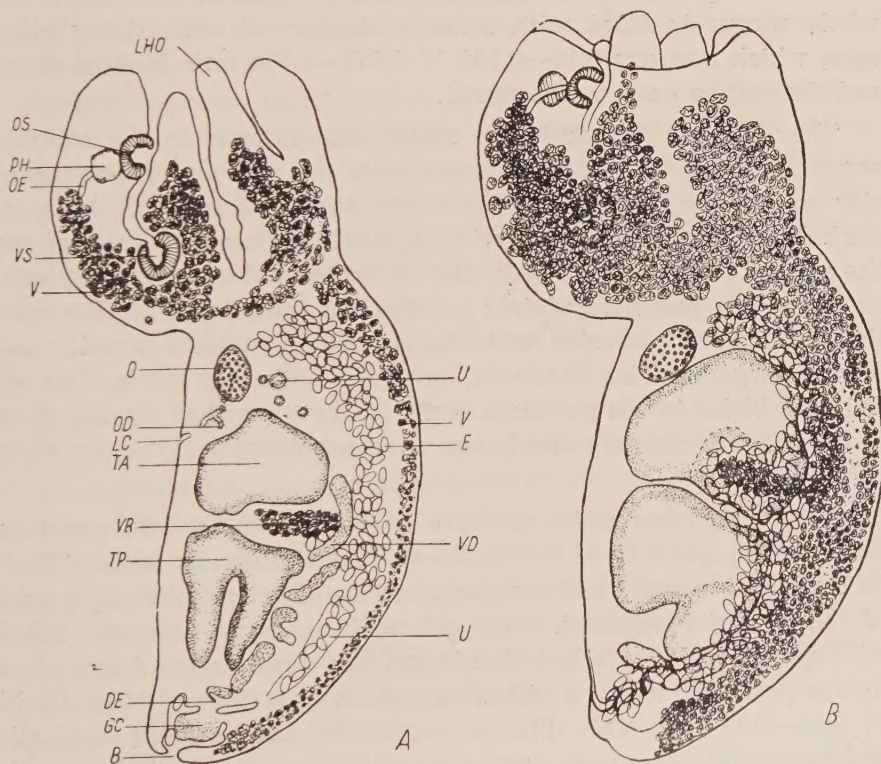


Fig. 1. A. Longitudinal section of *Strigea raabei* sp. n. B. Entire worm. B — bursa copulatrix; DE — ductus ejaculatorius; E — eggs; GC — genital cone; LHO — lobes of holdfast organ; LC — Laurer's canal; O — ovary; OD — oviduct; OE — oesophagus; OS — oral sucker; PH — pharynx; TA — testis anterior; TP — testis posterior; U — uterus; V — vitellaria; VD — vas deferens; VR — vitelline reservoir; VS — ventral sucker.

The sexual organs occupy almost exclusively the posterior segment. Close to the point of union of the anterior segment with the posterior segment lies on the dorsal side the oval ovary, which measures $0.32-0.37 \times 0.27-0.32$ mm. From the ovary, dorso — posteriorly takes origin the oviduct, which subsequently takes the course towards the anterior testis. At a certain distance from the ovary the Laurer's canal takes origin from the oviduct and takes the dorsal course. The uterus, initially thick-walled occupies almost the whole ventral surface of the body of the posterior segment between the ovary, testes and vitellaria, runs in the form of a loop and passes towards the genital core and opens in the region of the latter. The whole uterus is filled with a large number of oval, thin-shelled eggs, which measure $0.12-0.139 \times 0.075-0.086$ mm. Mehlis' gland and the ootype were not observed.

The vitellaria appear in the most compact mass in the anterior segment, where they extend almost from the pharynx to the posterior end of the anterior segment and enter also into the lobes of the holdfast organ. In the posterior segment they are situated between the ventral surface of the body and the testes and extend posteriorly as far as the bursa copulatrix penetrating into its walls. Between the anterior and posterior testis the vitellaria penetrate dorsally and form a large vitelline reservoir, provided with thin walls. The vitelline follicles in the posterior segment are somewhat smaller than in the anterior segment and in the vitelline reservoir, lying between the testes.

Two large, lobar testes measure $0.7-0.96 \times 0.59-0.91$ mm (anterior testis) and $0.73-1.0 \times 0.51-0.91$ mm (posterior testis). They lie between the ovary and the genital cone and occupy the major part of the posterior segment. Vasa efferentia and vas deferens, filled with sperm, run ventrally to the testes. The vas deferens forms close to the posterior testis a dilation, which measures $0.14-0.17 \times 0.16-0.21$ mm. This dilation constitutes the vesicula seminalis and passes into a narrow ductus ejaculatorius. The genital cone situated in the depression of the bursa copulatrix attains the size $0.27-0.32 \times 0.27-0.32$ mm. The bursa copulatrix measures $0.33-0.38$ mm in width and $0.37-0.42$ mm in depth. The muscular ring of the bursa copulatrix is poorly developed.

Hosts: *Querquedula querquedula* L. and *Nyroca nyroca* G ü l d.

Habitat: Cloaca.

Geographical distribution: Poland.

Types and paratypes: Department of Parasitology and Parasitic Diseases, Agricultural College, Lublin.

Differential diagnosis

Among the several species of the genus *Strigea* included partly even within the size limits typical for *Strigea raabei* sp. n. such species as *Strigea elongata* Yamaguti, 1935, *S. mcgregeri* Tubangu, 1932, *S. macroconophora* Dubois, 1950, *S. lilensis* Bissery, 1956, *S. neotidis* Bissery, 1956 and *S. rhodesiensis* Bissery, 1956 differ by having the adhesive gland, which is absent in *S. raabei* sp. n.

Strigea vaginata (Brandes, 1888) Szidat, 1928 sufficiently differs by being provided with a very large genital cone, which measures $0.58-2.0 \times 0.3-0.9$ mm; *S. nugax* Szidat, 1928 by being provided with a large genital cone (as can be supposed from the drawing 0.6×0.44 mm), with a very large bursa copulatrix ($0.8-1.2$ mm) and with eggs of smaller size.

In *Strigea promiscua* Nicoll, 1914 and *S. globocephala* Verma, 1936 the vitellaria do not penetrate into the genital cone and the size of the internal organs is considerably smaller. *S. bulbosa* (Brandes, 1888) Szidat, 1928 and *S. eroliae* Fischer et Webster, 1954 differ from the described new species by the form of the body and considerably smaller size of internal organs, whereby the size of the whole specimen is similar.

Strigea sphaerula (Rudolphi, 1803) Szidat, 1928 differs from *S. raabei* sp. n. by smaller size of the whole body, by being provided with a large oral sucker and ventral sucker (in proportion to the general size of the body) smaller size of the remaining internal organs, and particularly by the smaller depth of the bursa copulatrix and eggs of smaller size.

In *Strigea intermedia* Szidat, 1932 the terminal oral sucker is situated on the jutting hillock, the vitellaria extend as far as to the anterior end of the anterior segment and do not enter into the lobes of the holdfast organ, the oral and ventral suckers are large (in comparison with the size of the body), but the eggs are small.

Similar to *Strigea raabei* sp. n. are: *S. falconis* Szidat, 1928 and *S. strigis* (Schrank, 1788) Abildgaard, 1790. The size

limits of those trematodes are larger than in *S. raabei* sp. n. and include the size of the latter trematode.

Strigea falconis, frequently a cosmopolitan parasite of predatory birds (*Falconiformes*) differs from *S. raabei* sp. n. by the following characters: the vitellaria do not enter into the bursa copulatrix, the anterior segment is calyx-like or bell-like, the oral sucker smaller and situated terminally, always jutting, situated on a convexity, which dominates over the entrance to the holdfast organ of the anterior segment, the ventral sucker somewhat smaller, the pharynx conspicuously smaller, smaller eggs.

The three varieties of the species *S. falconis* besides the features given for *S. falconis* differ from *S. raabei* sp. n. by the following characters: 1. *S. falconis brasiliensis* Szidat, 1929 from Brasil is provided with smaller eggs than *S. falconis*; 2. *S. falconis meleagris* Harwood, 1931 from the USA is provided with somewhat larger eggs than *S. falconis*, but smaller than the described new species, the posterior segment is twice as long as the anterior one, the oral sucker is situated terminally on the convexity of the anterior end of the body; 3. *S. eaglesae* Verma, 1936 from the Indies is provided with internal organs of conspicuously smaller size.

Strigea strigis (Schrank, 1788) Abildgaard, 1790, a common parasite of nightly predatory birds (*Strigiformes*) in Europe is provided with a characteristic anterior segment of the body, similar to the calyx of the lily, the posterior segment of the body is considerably longer than the anterior one, the oral and ventral suckers are smaller, the pharynx is smaller and the genital cone is considerably smaller than in *S. raabei* sp. n.

Special attention should be paid to the analysis of morphological differences in *Strigea infundibuliformis* Dubois, 1934 in view of the fact that this trematode parasitizes in the intestine of the *Larus atricilla* L. therefore the bird, which most closely is related to ducks by similar environmental conditions of living and the kind of food taken by it. *S. infundibuliformis* is characterized by the following features: The anterior segment infundibular, the ventral sucker close to the dorsal side of the body, not conspicuous constriction between the segments, the posterior segment very elongated, not curved, the vitellaria take origin not till the level of the ventral sucker, the ovary situated more or less in the middle of the posterior segment,

small size of the internal organs. These characters distinctly differentiate this trematode from *Strigea raabei* sp. n.

It should be stressed that a general characteristic, which differentiates *Strigea raabei* sp. n. from the remaining species of the genus *Strigea* is the parasitizing of this trematode in the cloaca of ducks.

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STRESZCZENIE

Spośród zbadanych 472 ptaków, w kloace jednej cyranki (*Querquedula querquedula* L.) i 2 podgorzałek białookich (*Nyroca nyroca* G ü l d.) autor stwierdził nowy gatunek przywry z rodziny *Strigeidae*, mianowicie *Strigea raabei* sp. n.

Przywry z rodzaju *Strigea* były dotychczas stwierdzane przede wszystkim u *Falconiformes* i *Strigiformes*, rzadziej u *Caprimulgi-formes*, *Rheiformes*, *Passeriformes* i *Charadriiformes*. Niniejsze doniesienie mówi więc po raz pierwszy o stwierdzeniu przedstawiciela rodzaju *Strigea* u *Anseriformes*.

Jako miejsce bytowania przywr z rodzaju *Strigea* podaje się dwunastnicę, jelito cienkie i grube oraz w jednym przypadku (*Strigea rhodesiensis* Bisseru, 1956) jelito proste. Tak więc pasożytnictwo *Strigea raabei* sp. n. w kloace jest również pierwszym doniesieniem odnośnie miejsca lokalizacji tej przywry.

Opis nowego gatunku, oparty na 14 egzemplarzach totalnych i skrawkach mikrotomowych grubości 20 μ , przedstawia się następująco:

Strigea raabei sp. n.

Syn.: *Strigea* sp. Bezubik, 1956.

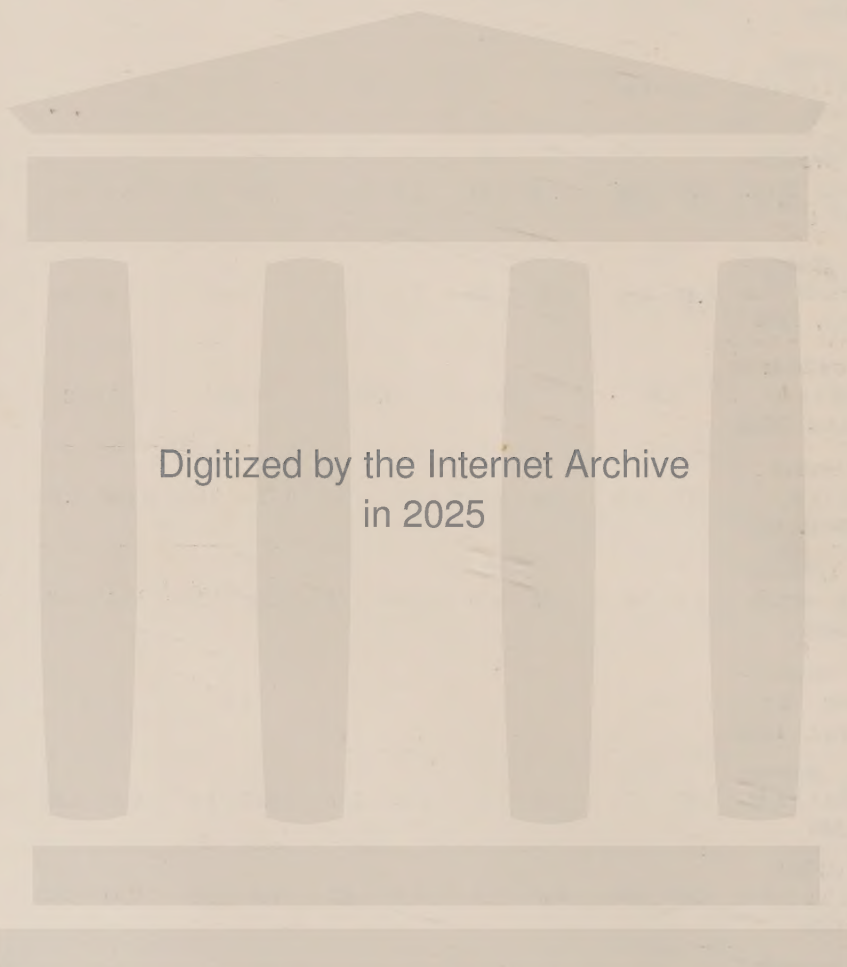
Ciało rozdzielone na dwie części, przednią krótszą i tylną dłuższą. Wygięcie ciała w kierunku brzuszyn słabe. Całkowita długość wynosi 2,8—5,0 mm. Segment przedni, kształtu prawie okrągłego, o przedniej krawędzi dość szerokiej, osiąga długość 1,1—1,8 mm, szerokość 1,23—1,8 mm i grubość ok. 1,2—1,5 mm. Owalny tylny segment ma długość 1,7—3,2 mm, szerokość (na wysokości przedniego jądra) 1,0—1,5 mm i grubość ok. 0,8—1,0 mm. Stosunek długości segmentu tylnego do przedniego wynosi 1,46—1,85.

Przysawka gębowa mierzy 0,22—0,27 $\times$ 0,2—0,27 mm, jest umieszczona subterminalnie (we wgłębieniu płatów organu czepnego), w pobliżu grzbietowej powierzchni ciała. Do niej od strony grzbietowej przylega źle widoczna na preparatach totalnych, słabo umięśniona gardziel, wielkości 0,13—0,2 $\times$ 0,16—0,19 mm. Przysawka brzuszna, umieszczona na wysokości 2/3 przedniego segmentu, na dnie organu czepnego, mierzy 0,27—0,32 $\times$ 0,21—0,37 mm. Na preparatach totalnych jest ona słabo widoczna, gdyż jest przykryta przez gęsto tu ułożone pęcherzyki żółtnikowe. Brak jest gruczołu proteolitycznego (adhesive gland, glande protéolitique).

Table I

Differential diagnosis of the species of the genus *Strigea* A bildgaard, 1790

No.	Species	Length	Length of I segm.	Length of II segm.	Width of I segment	Width of II segm.	Oral sucker	Pharynx	Ventral sucker	Ovary	Testis I	Testis II	Genital cone	Bursa copulatrix	Eggs	Habitat	Geogr. distr.	Hosts
1	<i>S. raabei</i> sp. n.	2.8—5.0	1.1—1.8	1.7—3.2	1.23—1.8	1.0—1.5	0.22—0.27 × 0.20—0.27	0.13—0.2 × 0.16—0.19	0.27—0.32 × 0.21—0.37	0.32—0.37 × 0.27—0.32	0.70—0.96 × 0.59—0.91	0.73—1.0 × 0.51—0.91	0.27—0.32 × 0.27—0.32	0.33—0.38 × 0.37—0.42	0.120—0.139 × 0.075—0.086	cloaca	Poland	<i>Nyroca nyroca</i> ; <i>Querquedula querquedula</i>
2	<i>S. vaginata</i> (Brand., 1888)	2.0—7.0	0.75—1.28		0.54—1.07	0.63—1.29	0.115—0.21 × 0.10—0.21	0.096—0.165 × 0.1—0.165	0.165—0.285 × 0.14—0.285	0.14—0.36 × 0.105—0.35	0.32—0.63 × 0.18—0.62	0.34—0.66 × 0.23—0.60	0.58—2.0 × 0.3—0.9		0.08—0.10 × 0.046—0.065	intestine	Brazil	<i>Falconiformes</i>
3	<i>S. nugax</i> Szidat, 1928	5.5—6.0			1.5		∅ 0.25	∅ 0.15	∅ 0.3	0.20—0.35	0.6—0.7		0.60 × 0.44	0.8—1.2	0.09—0.10 × 0.055	intestine	Brazil	<i>Rhea americana</i> <i>Mycteria americana</i>
4	<i>S. promiscua</i> Nic., 1914	2.0—3.96	0.78—1.41	1.2—2.55	0.57—1.14	0.6—1.2	0.10—0.15 × 0.1—0.145	0.125—0.145 × 0.117—0.145	0.17—0.215 × 0.15—0.20	0.38—0.50 × 0.17—0.25	0.5—0.54 × 0.33—0.39	0.60—0.66 × 0.40—0.42	0.36—0.40 × 0.23—0.27	0.24—0.36 (depth)	0.101—0.114 × 0.065—0.079	intestine	Queensland	<i>Strigiformes</i>
5	<i>S. globocephala</i> Verma, 1936	3.36—4.44	0.84—1.24	2.52—3.2	0.84	0.8—1.0	0.126—0.16	∅ 0.126	0.21	0.17—0.21 × 0.25—0.40	0.59 × 0.59—0.67	0.69 × 0.59—0.67	0.25 × 0.33	0.336 × 0.50	0.1008—0.117 × 0.059 × 0.084	intestine	India	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
6	<i>S. bulbosa</i> (Brandes, 1888)	3.0	1.38	1.62	∅ 0.69	∅ 0.66	0.09—0.1	0.1 × 0.065	0.135	0.225 × 0.153	0.43 × 0.405	0.47 × 0.47			0.099—0.11 × 0.06—0.067	intestine	Brazil	<i>Falconiformes</i> <i>Caprimulgi-formes</i>
7	<i>S. eroliae</i> Fish., Web., 1954	2.12—2.74	0.654—0.892	1.463—1.844	0.714—0.999	0.749—1.142	0.083	0.071	0.154—0.178 × 0.107—0.154	0.13—0.178 × 0.249—0.321	0.392—0.714 × 0.273—0.416	0.654—0.916 × 0.357—0.476			0.071 × 0.047—0.059	small intestine	USA	<i>Charadriiformes</i>
8	<i>S. sphaerula</i> (Rud., 1803)	1.4—2.8	0.45—1.18	0.84—1.71	0.63—1.35	0.6—1.05	0.12—0.26 × 0.12—0.19	0.1—0.165 × 0.09—0.165	0.22—0.315 × 0.16—0.30	0.15—0.26 × 0.108—0.2	0.315—0.5 × 0.21—0.45	0.27—0.63 × 0.18—0.50	0.225—0.235 × 0.18—0.19	0.15—0.18 (depth)	0.09—0.117 × 0.052—0.077	large intestine	Europe Asia	<i>Passeriformes</i>
9	<i>S. intermedia</i> Szidat, 1932	3.0			1.5	1.1	0.2—0.25	0.15 (length)	0.3						0.09 × 0.05	large intestine	Guinea	<i>Passeriformes</i>
10	<i>S. falconis</i> Szidat, 1928	1.83—5.25	0.6—1.5	1.23—3.75	0.57—1.5	0.45—1.56	0.095—0.2	0.085—0.16	0.18—0.315 × 0.115—0.315	0.17—0.36 × 0.135—0.29	0.30—0.90 × 0.235—0.69	0.315—0.9 × 0.245—0.7	0.17—0.38		0.075—0.108 × 0.045—0.072	intestine	cosmopolitan	<i>Falconiformes</i>
11	<i>S. strigis</i> (Schrank, 1788)	2.35—6.0	0.65—2.0	1.3—4.35	0.6—1.98	0.54—1.98	0.1—0.2	0.085—0.135 × 0.075—0.135	0.18—0.30 × 0.12—0.38	0.145—0.6 × 0.12—0.38	0.45—1.26 × 0.29—0.90	0.50—1.35 × 0.38—1.05	0.315—0.85 × 0.315—0.63		0.10—0.13 × 0.065—0.09	large intestine	Europe	<i>Strigiformes</i>
12	<i>S. infundibuliformis</i> Dub., 1934	4.08—5.34	0.9—1.11	3.18—4.26	0.69—0.84	0.6—0.69	0.135—0.162 × 0.115—0.144	∅ ca 0.09	0.18—0.27 × 0.18—0.225	0.25 × 0.19	0.45—0.60 × 0.47—0.60	0.50—0.63 × 0.50—0.60			0.096—0.115 × 0.062—0.068	intestine	USA	<i>Lariformes</i>



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Owalny jajnik, wielkości $0,32-0,37 \times 0,27-0,32$ mm, leży tuż za połączeniem segmentu przedniego z tylnym, po stronie grzbietowej ciała. Od jajnika, po stronie grzbietowo-tylnej, odchodzi jajowód, biegnący w kierunku przedniego jądra. W pewnej odległości od jajnika, w kierunku grzbietowym odchodzi kanał Laurera. Macica, początkowo grubościenna, zajmuje prawie całą brzuszną powierzchnię ciała segmentu tylnego między jajnikiem, jajdami a żółtnikami, przebiega w postaci pętli, zdąża w kierunku stożka płciowego i otwiera się w jego okolicy. Jaja liczne, owalne, o otoczce cienkościennej, mierzą $0,12-0,139 \times 0,075-0,086$ mm. Gruczołu Mehlisa i ootypu nie zaobserwowano.

W segmencie przednim żółtniki zajmują przestrzeń od gardzieli do końca segmentu i wchodzi również do płatów organu czepnego. W segmencie tylnym leżą między brzuszną powierzchnią ciała a jajdami, ciągną się ku tyłowi ciała aż do bursa copulatrix i wnikają do jej ścian. Część żółtników, w formie pęcherzyka żółtnikowego o słabych ściankach, penetruje w kierunku grzbietowym, pomiędzy oba jądra.

Dwa duże, płatkowate jądra, osiągają wielkość: $0,7-0,96 \times 0,59-0,91$ mm i $0,73-1,0 \times 0,51-0,91$ mm. Vasa efferentia i vas deferens, wypełnione spermą, przebiegają brzusznie od jąder. Vas deferens tworzy tuż za tylnym jądrem rozszerzenie wielkości $0,14-0,17 \times 0,16-0,21$ mm, stanowiące pęcherzyk nasienny i przechodzące następnie w wąski ductus ejaculatorius. Stożek płciowy, położony we wgłębieniu bursa copulatrix, osiąga wymiary $0,27-0,32 \times 0,27-0,32$ mm. Bursa copulatrix mierzy: $0,33-0,38$ mm szerokości i $0,37-0,42$ mm głębokości. Pierścień mięśniowy bursa copulatrix jest słabo wykształcony.

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